

OUR READERS:

May Day is a public holiday in Jordan...

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة باللغة العربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Page 6, Number 1646

AMMAN, SATURDAY MAY 2, 1981 — JUMADA AL THANI 28, 1401

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

هذه ايامنا الحرة

It will be warmer, with northwesterly moderate winds...

Table with weather forecasts for Amman, Aqaba, Deserts, and Jordan Valley, including overnight and daytime temperatures.



Debris billows from an area of the Lebanese coastal city of Sidon...

Syria claims U.S. led Israeli attack

AMMAN, May 1 (A.P.) — Syria accused the United States for the role today of giving Israel the "green light" to shoot down two...

Government will buy wheat

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — The government will purchase the surplus wheat crop, as it is the first year since 1976...

Israel's Lebanese raids condemned by Qadhafi



Muammar Qadhafi chats with Yugoslav President Cvijetin Mijatovic...

GRADE, May 1 (A.P.) — Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi left here today after joining Yugoslav leaders in condemning Israeli activities against Syrian forces in south Lebanon...

'Big strides in a short time' Hussein praises role of Jordanian workers

AMMAN, May 1 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein today expressed pride in Jordanian labourers and paid tribute to the achievements of the labour movement...

"The country's achievements in the agricultural, industrial and public services sectors could not have been realised without the active participation of the workers," King Hussein said.



His Majesty King Hussein kisses the mother-in-law of his late father during a May Day celebration...

king force of the country, Dr. Anani said. Also speaking at the celebration was Mr. Shaher Majali, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions...

Rydbeck: \$19m still to be found

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck says the agency still has a deficit of \$19 million but it is hoped that more contributions will come before the end of this year.

Special U.N. session ahead — S. Africa sanctions vetoed

UNITED NATIONS, May 1 (A.P.) — The 50-nation U.N. African Group held a private meeting today that its outgoing chairman said was "to make arrangements for an emergency special session" of the General Assembly...

471 Iranian troops fall in Kermanshah fighting

BEIRUT, May 1 (R) — The Iraqi high command today reported continued heavy fighting with Iranian troops, mainly in Iran's western Kermanshah Province, and said a total of 471 of the enemy were killed over the last 24 hours.

Saudis are key partners: Schmidt

HAMBURG, May 1 (A.P.) — Saudi Arabia, after the United States, is West Germany's most important ally outside Europe, a West German daily quoted Chancellor Helmut Schmidt as saying today.

Churchill considered germ, gas attacks on Nazis, records show

LONDON, May 1 (A.P.) — Toward the end of World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered the British military to make a "cold-blooded calculation" on whether to drench Germany with poison gas...

Caught in a cold snap? Warmth is on the way

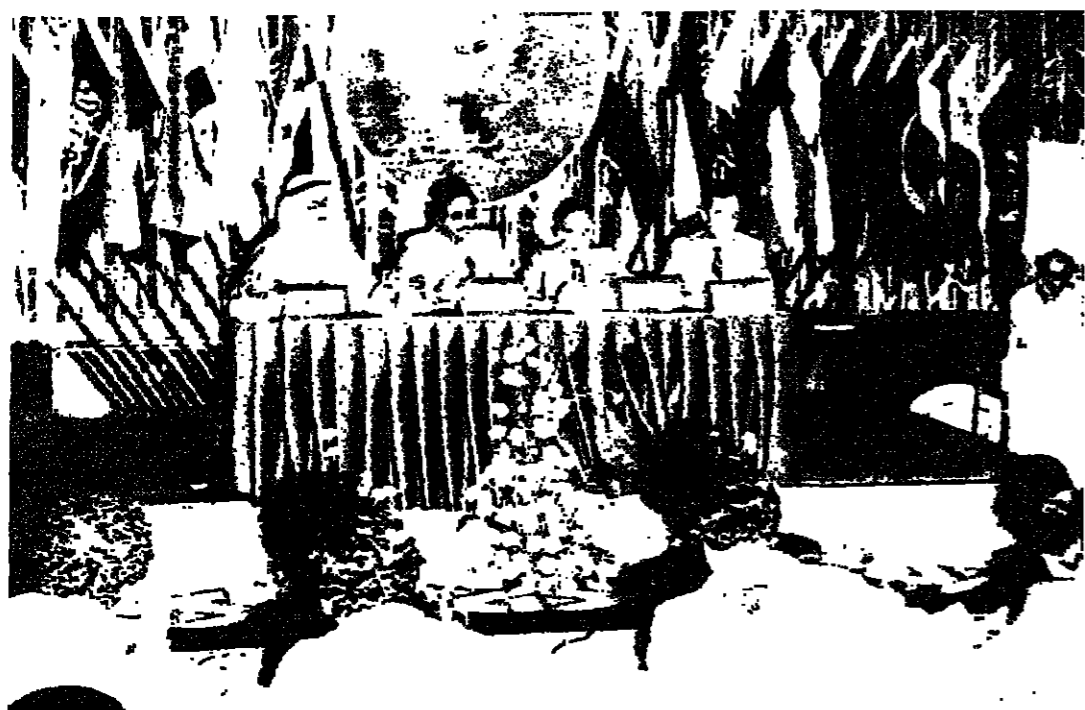
AMMAN, May 1 — Jordanians ambushed by the unseasonably cold weather of the past few days should begin to feel some relief from tomorrow onward, the meteorology department says.

Churchill considered germ, gas attacks on Nazis, records show

LONDON, May 1 (A.P.) — Toward the end of World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered the British military to make a "cold-blooded calculation" on whether to drench Germany with poison gas...

Advertisement for SWISSAIR GSA, including flight times for Amman-Geneva/Zurich and contact information for reservations.

Arab satellite meeting ends



AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — The Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) concluded a two-day meeting in Amman last night.

A statement read out at the end of the final session announced that the manufacture of the Arab satellite was awarded to one of the four bidding firms, and that a technical committee has been set up to conclude the contract with that firm before May 20.

It is hoped that the satellite will be launched within 30 months, the statement said.

According to the final statement, Arabsat's capital is to be doubled, to \$200 million. The capital was partly raised during the conference, when a

number of Arab states bought 496 shares. The remaining 237 shares (each costing \$100,000) must be sold during the coming three months.

Also according to the statement a new Arabsat board of directors has been set up, with representatives of Saudi Arabia, Libya, Y'wait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine and Sudan.

According to Arabsat Secretary General Ali Mashat, the satellite will be launched using the U.S. Space shuttle by the end of 1983, and is expected to make available 8,000 telephone circuits, in addition to channels to be used by television stations.

Mineral resources conference condemns Med-Dead canal plan

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — The fourth Arab Conference on Mineral Resources last night condemned Israel's plan to construct a canal across the occupied Gaza Strip linking the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea.

The condemnation came in a final statement at the conclusion of the two-day conference. It said that the Israeli plan is considered a provocative action and will have grave consequences since it adversely affects Arab countries' interests and violates international laws.

The conference adopted His Majesty King Hussein's opening speech as an official document representing the Arab strategy on mineral resources. It also endorsed recommendations of a seminar on solid energy-producing

minerals which preceded the conference, and the main working paper that was reviewed by the Arab delegates.

The conference called on Arab states to increase their investments in mining projects, and urged Arab states which are not members of the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources to join the organisation.

The conference also set up a committee, of representatives of Sudan and Tunisia and the deputy director of the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority, to pursue the implementation of the conference's resolutions.

At the conclusion of the conference the delegates decided to hold the fifth Arab Conference on Mineral Resources in Khartoum, in 1984.

Franco-Jordanian cooperation team concludes Paris meeting

PARIS, May 1 (Petra) — The Franco-Jordanian technical and cultural cooperation committee concluded its sixth meeting here last night.

During the two-day meeting, the committee discussed ways of boosting cultural and technical cooperation in television programming and in training Jordanians to be television announcers and scriptwriters in France.

It also discussed cooperation in archaeological excavations, and exhibitions of Jordanian antiquities in France, as well as the teaching of French in Jordan and Arabic at French universities.

The talks were within the framework of a bilateral technical agreement signed by France and Jordan in 1965.

The head of the French side at the committee meeting was Mr. Michel Andre, deputy director of the science and development department at the French foreign ministry; and the Jordanian side was led by Secretary General of the National Planning Council Basil Jardaneh.

Conferring on UNRWA



U.N. Relief and Workes Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck, who crossed the King Hussein Bridge into the West Bank on Friday, is shown at centre

above during a meeting on Wednesday with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Director of UNR Affairs in Jordan. John Tanner is seated at Rydbeck's right.

Special occasions in Irbid



IRBID, May 1 (Petra) — A boarding kindergarten for orphans was opened here on Wednesday by the deputy governor of Irbid. The kindergarten accommodates 38 orphans aged between five and six years, who will receive care and instruction from specialised teachers (above). Also in Irbid, a class

of 39 midwives graduated on Wednesday after attending a nine-day training course on maternity care. A special graduation ceremony was held at the mother and child care centre, and the midwives received diplomas from the Health Ministry's director of mother and child care centres (below).



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — Jordan Television has increased its daily transmission time by one hour, starting today. A television announcement said transmission will start at 4:30 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. every day, except for Friday, when transmission normally starts at 10 a.m.

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — The central traffic committee has approved a request that a bus company be set up to replace the taxi service now operating between Amman and Irbid. The request was made by owners and drivers of the taxis running between the two cities.

AMMAN, May 1 (Petra) — The University of Jordan and Yarmouk University have approved a proposal of the establishment of a specialised institute to train translators. The proposal was made by the Arab language academy in view of the increased demand for translators, and the use of Arabic at the U.N. and other international organisations. Plans for establishing the institute are expected to be worked out in the coming few months, a University of Jordan source said.

MAFRAQ, May 1 (Petra) — The Development Bank for Municipalities and Village Councils has agreed to grant a JD 30,000 loan to the Umm Al Sirab village council for opening roads, bank sources said. In addition, the Mafraq District government has endorsed the JD 51,000 budget of Umm Al Qutain village council, for roads and school buildings.

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — Representatives of various public-sector groups have sent cables to His Majesty King Hussein expressing renewed allegiance and support for his leadership; and denouncing the Syrian campaign directed against Jordan. With this campaign, the Syrian rulers are trying to distort facts and undermine the solidarity of the Arabs, the cables said. They were sent by municipal and village councils, heads of tribal groups and representatives of youth organisation.

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — The second Arab conference on mathematics and physics will open here on Monday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The conference, organised by the Arab mathematicians' and physicists' federations, will be attended by delegates from all over the Arab World. They will discuss 60 research papers in physics and 41 in mathematics. The University of Jordan and Yarmouk University will be represented at the conference.

AMMAN, May 1 (Petra) — Health Minister Zuhair Malhas is due to leave for Geneva tomorrow at the head of a delegation to attend the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) 34th meeting, which is scheduled to open on May 4. Deteriorating health conditions in the occupied Arab territories and the transfer of WHO's regional office from Alexandria to Amman will be among the major topics to be discussed at the meeting, Dr. Malhas said. The minister will be accompanied by a three-member delegation.

Illustrious interpreter



This studio portrait of a dragoman in full regalia by the late 19th-century photographer Felix Bonfils is one of many fascinating images now on display

at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (See What's Going On)

PREQUALIFICATION INVITATION

The Ministry of Health of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan intends to put into a bid all its hospital general services, which includes Housekeeping, Catering, Laundry and Maintenance of Building and Grounds.

All qualified and Experienced firms in this field are invited to enter into this pre-qualification invitation.

All prequalification documents must reach this Ministry before May 15, 1981. For further details please contact the Head of the General Services Division of this Ministry.

Ministry of Health

JD 8m 'land port' planned near Sahab

AMMAN, May 1 (J.T.) — The urban region planning department has reportedly completed work on designs for a huge overland transport terminal, or "land port", near Sahab, southeast of here.

A report in Al Rai newspaper said the terminal, to be set up on a 2,000 dunum tract, will cost nearly JD 8 million.

Work will start soon on the project, whose site will be connected by rail to the Hijaz Railway line to the east, the paper said. It added that the project entails the construction of offices to house commercial banks, money changers and customs posts, together with a parking area which can hold 8,000 trucks.

The terminal will serve as a centre for distribution of goods to importers, the report said.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

The British Council presents "The Age of Shakespeare", an exhibition which employs pictures, photos, slides, music, models and costumes to explore the way of life of the late 16th-century Englishman. Open from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 7 p.m. at the council in Jabal Amman.

Yarmouk University presents an exhibition of architectural books by professors on the staff of the university's Faculty of Engineering, at the university's exhibition hall. Today is the last day of the exhibition.

The Harvard Semitic Museum, in cooperation with the ministries of culture and youth and tourism and antiquities, presents an exhibition of Middle East "Photographs from the Last Century", at the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jabal Luweibdeh.

"City of Amman", an exhibition of the work of Italian artist Daniele Scaglioni, is now on display at Yarmouk University Irbid.

Works of art by Jordanian artists are on display in the major hall of Aqaba, forming Jordan's National Spring Festival of art.

Film

The French Cultural Centre presents "Le Chat" (1971), based on the novel by Georges Simenon, at 7:30 p.m.

Church services

The Amman International Church and the Church of the Redeemer hold worship services tomorrow. See Jordan Weekly Calendar for details.

Handwritten signature or note in Arabic script.

JORDAN WEEKLY CALENDAR

(Week of May 2 - 8)
EXHIBITIONS

CONTINUING: The British Council presents "The Age of Shakespeare", an exhibition which employs pictures, photographs, slides, music, models and costumes to explore the way of life of the 16th-century Englishman. The council will present a special programme of readings and scenes from Shakespeare, lectures, solo performances and music related to the exhibition during the second week of May. The exhibition is open from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the council in Jabal Amman.

Yarmouk University presents an exhibition of architectural models. On display are books written by professors on the staff of the university's Faculty of Engineering, at the university's exhibition hall. Saturday is the last day.

The Harvard Semitic Museum, in cooperation with the ministries of culture and youth and tourism, presents an exhibition of Middle East "Photographs from the Last Century". The exhibition is open to the public at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

The exhibition of work of the Italian artist Daniele Scaglioni, which was held at the Alia Art Gallery in Amman last week, is now on display at Yarmouk University in Irbid.

WEDNESDAY, May 6: Under the patronage of Princess Wijdan II, the Nuns of Nazareth School, in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre, presents an exhibition of paintings by the school's students. The opening ceremony is at 5:30 p.m., at the French Cultural Centre in Jabal Luweibdeh. The exhibition will be open to the public until May 8.

SPRING FESTIVAL

Jordan is celebrating the Spring Festival of art in Aqaba. Several exhibitions of work by Jordanian artists are taking place at the major hotels of the city.

FILMS

THURSDAY, May 2 and SUNDAY, May 3: The French Cultural Centre presents "Le Chat" (1971), a film based on a novel by Georges Simenon directed by Pierre Granier Deferre, starring Genevieve Sirey, Jean Gabin and Annie Cordy. The film tells the story of Julien and Clemence, who have not talked since their cat died. The show starts at 7:30 p.m., at the centre in Jabal Luweibdeh.

TUESDAY, May 5: The Goethe Institute continues its women's film series for the month of May. It presents "Lisa: Aus Dem Leben Einer Unentbehrlichen" (1973), which tells the story of a res secretary, devoted to her career, who realises her problem as woman too late. The show starts at 8 p.m., at the institute in Jabal Amman.

SEMINARS

The Jordanian Writer's Association organises a "Workshop of Critical Criticism", which deals with various topics, according to the following schedule:

TUESDAY, May 4: "The Relation Between Creativity and Society", which will be discussed under the chairmanship of Dr. 'Aliid Mustafa;

TUESDAY, May 5: "The Criticism Movement in Jordan", which will be discussed under the chairmanship of Salem Al Nahas;

WEDNESDAY, May 6: "Television and Film Critique", which will be discussed under the chairmanship of Mahmoud Shuqair;

THURSDAY, May 7: "The Realities of the Theatre Criticism Movement in Jordan", under the chairmanship of Jamal Abu Amman.

LECTURE

WEDNESDAY, May 6: The Goethe Institute presents a lecture entitled "Coral Reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba", by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Zacher, geologist from the Technical University in Munich. The lecture which will be followed by an 18-minute underwater film. It starts at 6 p.m., at the institute in Jabal Amman.

BRITISH LADIES

WEDNESDAY, May 6: The British Ladies of Amman will hold a meeting at the Ambassador Hotel in Shmeisani, at 10 a.m. The programme includes a curry cooker demonstration. Creche is available. All Commonwealth citizens are welcome to membership.

VIDEOTAPE PROGRAMMES

TUESDAY, May 4: The French Cultural Centre presents the second part of "Le mystere Frontenac", at 5 p.m. and the third episode of "La maison des bois", at 6 p.m., at the centre in Jabal Luweibdeh.

TUESDAY, May 5: The American Centre presents a videotape summary of CBS television news for the past week. The tape will be shown at noon and 4 p.m., at the centre's auditorium, off Third Circle in Jabal Amman.

CHURCH SERVICES

TUESDAY, May 3: The Amman International Church (international and interdenominational) holds worship services each Monday at 6 p.m. Church School for adults at 5 p.m.; nursery provided. The church meets for worship in the Baptist School in Shmeisani.

The Church of the Redeemer (C. of E./ Anglican/ Episcopal) celebrates Holy Communion at 8 p.m., and holds Morning Service at 12 noon, in addition to Evening Service at 4:30 p.m., all on Sunday.

Reviving Jordan's heritage

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles about handicrafts in Jordan.

**Text and photos
by Mohammad Ayish
Special to the Jordan Times**

AMMAN — Anybody who walks by the medium sized building near Second Circle in Jabal Amman, just behind the Lebanese embassy, may not be impressed by its external appearance.

But as he enters the hall, emblazoned with the figure of a hand, he could feel that a cultural transition has taken place. One is taken deeper into the Jordanian society represented by hundreds of handicraft items exhibited for sale at the Jordan Handicrafts Development Centre, which is the first of its kind in the country, according to its manager, Mrs. Abia Kavar.

At the centre, a visitor can see items such as embroidered dresses, ceramic plates and cups, straw baskets, glass jugs, stonework, bamboo chairs, assorted rugs, fur-trimmed jackets, jewelry and woodwork.

It was some 10 years ago that a group of ladies, including me, who graduated from the Beirut University College (BUC) came together to set up what looked like a social activity to revive the Jordanian traditional heritage, provide craftsmen with a source of living, promote and merchandise their crafts," Mrs. Kavar told the Jordan Times.

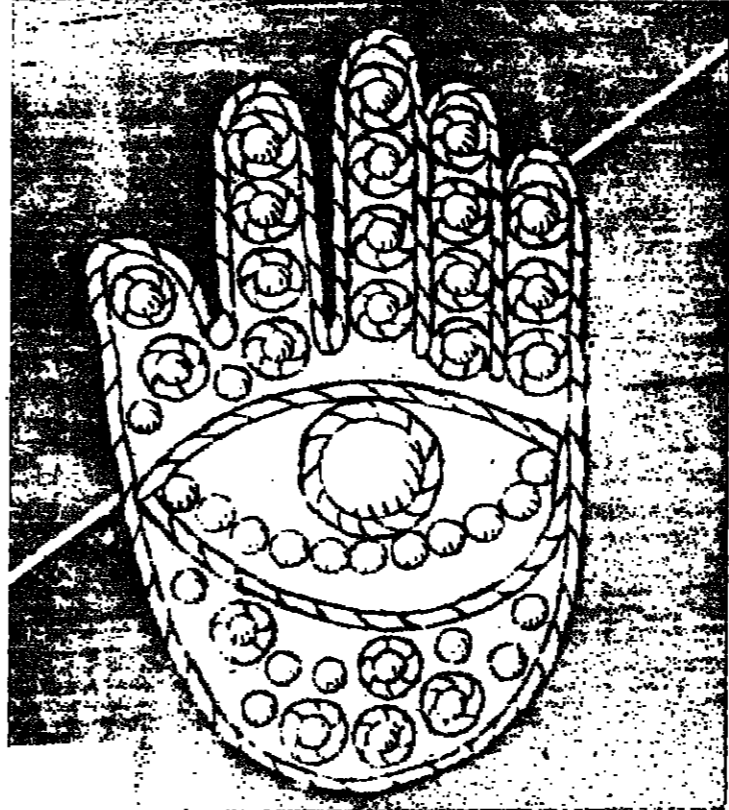
But as our activity expanded, it turned to the business side in 1979, when the handicrafts centre was officially opened, under the patronage of her Majesty Queen Noor, as the Jordan Handicrafts Development Centre Company.

But our goals are still the same despite that transition, since we are still not as commercial as we look," Mrs. Kavar contended.

This centre is open to any craftsman or craftswoman from here or the West Bank," she said; "otherwise how would craftsmen earn a living if nobody cares for them?" But she added that once a craftsman is given a certain design to work on or the material for any sort of handicraft, he has to do it "exclusively for the centre, and not for any outside party."

But while the centre works to promote Jordanian handicrafts and preserve the Jordanian heritage, it has apparently fallen short of its goal of providing sufficient training for craftsmen. "We don't have any training programme now, but we are on the verge of opening handicraft workshops for trainees," Mrs. Kavar said.

The centre's "commercial" activities take the form of the company's buying crafts from



The symbolic emblem of a hand emblazons the sign outside the Jordan Handicrafts Development Centre.

Jordanian artisans at reasonable prices, and selling them to customers. Mrs. Kavar told the Jordan Times that the centre sells only Jordanian handicrafts, and in this regard, the company functions like a national museum of handicrafts. "That also makes the centre different from other souvenir shops that deal with crafts from other countries besides Jordan," she said.

A brief tour of the exhibition hall at the centre gives the visitor a feeling of antiquity and originality. Mrs. Kavar said the centre deals with such crafts as weaving, straw work, olivewood work, ceramics, stone carving, pottery, embroidery, old and new traditional dresses and jewelry -- both silver and gold.

The employment of the hand symbol as an emblem of the centre has its roots in the character of the crafts, as well as in the heritage and culture they represent. "We use the hand emblem because everything here is made with hands and we would like to encourage those hands," Mrs. Kavar said.

She added that the emblem also derives from some cultural values and beliefs still strongly held in the traditional Jordanian society.

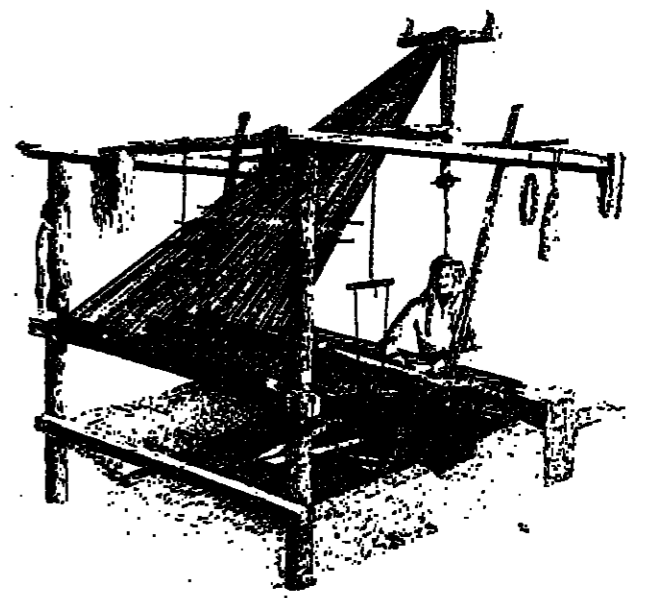
Among those beliefs, Mrs. Kavar cited the use of the hand emblem with a blue eye in the palm to ward off the "evil eye" from property or people.

Besides its lack of training facilities, the centre also suffers from the shortage of information about handicrafts in Jordan. Most of the literature on the subject is written by foreign authors who lived for several years in Jordanian society and wrote their works out of curiosity and admiration.

But Mrs. Kavar said that the centre is trying to collect all the necessary information about handicrafts in Jordan, and so far it has managed to produce some pamphlets about weaving.

The fact that the items exhibited at the handicrafts centre are purely traditional Jordanian products may give the impression that customers, too are confined to Jordanians who buy the items because they know how to use them. But according to Mrs. Kavar, foreign customers also constitute a large portion of the

Our nation's crafts



A Jordan Times in-depth series

visitors. "I would say that every member of a foreign mission in the country has been to the centre, and any visiting foreign delegation would also all here to acquaint itself at least briefly with Jordanian handicrafts," Mrs. Kavar said.

She added that the centre has "good contacts" with the royal court, which patronises the place a good deal.

Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is also "an active customer," according to Mrs. Kavar. "Alia and the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) are shareholders of this company, and when Alia uses some of our items on its worldwide flights, we are quite sure that this is good publicity for this part of the Jordanian heritage," she said. She added that the centre is working on a big project for Alia, the production of embroidered mats to be used in its air services.

Besides its connection with Alia, the handicrafts centre has other means of letting the world know about its products. "Whenever we have any special activity, we employ all the mass media available," she said.

The centre's manager added that local exhibitions of Jordanian handicrafts under the sponsorship of the centre also contribute to the public awareness of the crafts. But while the centre has been active in local exhibitions, it has not taken part in any international ones.

The centre is hoping to expand its base of business and involvement so as to be able to take part in international handicrafts exhibitions," Mrs. Kavar said.

men, and scores of schoolgirls provide the merchandise for the centre, she said, adding that "by our sponsoring those people, they come to feel that they are being appreciated, and that encourages them to excel in their work."

On the future goals of the centre, Mrs. Kavar said she hopes to expand its activities to include the international scene. Contact has already been established between the centre and a doll shop in the United States through the Ministry of Tourism, she said. "We would like also to get more craftsmen involved, to enable younger generations to preserve the crafts as a symbol of our heritage and a source of living," she added.

The centre would like its crafts to be introduced at Jordanian hotels and cafeterias, she said to add "an oriental touch" to such places.

The objectives of the Handicrafts Development Centre, as defined by its charter, are to encourage and activate handicrafts connected with the Jordanian heritage; to encourage craftsmen to develop existing crafts and create new designs and shapes, and to help craftsmen obtain longterm loans as well as technical advice from the IDB.

The centre is now staffed by Mrs. Kavar, an assistant, an accountant and two other employees. Its board of directors includes representatives of the IDB, Alia, the Jordan Crafts Council, BUC graduates, the Jordan Express Tourist Transport Company (JETT) and 14 personalities interested in Jordanian crafts.



Traditional Jordanian costumes are displayed on dolls at the centre.



Wooden coffee grinders are among the many handicrafts for sale at the centre.

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- 3. Advertisements sent by mail cannot contain any artwork such as company emblems, photos or drawings, but must consist only of a headline and copy that will be typeset by the Jordan Times.
- 4. Advertisements are not accepted over the telephone or telex, and guaranteed insertions on specific dates can only be assured by sending in the advertisements so they reach the Jordan Times office at least two days before the required day of publication.
- 5. For the minimum price of JD 6, the advertiser will have published an advertisement of three centimetres on two columns, which will have a maximum of 30 words, including the headline and telephone numbers to be called. The JD 6 charge is for one insertion; two insertions cost JD 12, three insertions cost JD 18, etc.
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OPINION

Jordan Times

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 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Advertising and subscription rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Confusing politics

IT IS heartwarming to learn of the United States government's concern about the escalation of fighting in Lebanon, which has reached a most dangerous level with the Israeli shooting down of two Syrian helicopters and Syria's moving into Lebanon several batteries of advanced surface to air missiles. The concern in Washington is suddenly so intense that the American leadership has sought the aid of the Soviet Union in cooling down the situation in Lebanon. This is puzzling to us. Why is it that Washington seeks Soviet assistance now—when Israel is using American F-16s in Lebanon in clear defiance of the conditions on which the planes were supplied to Israel—but bows meekly to Zionist sensitivities when the Soviets are brought into the peace-making efforts by the Americans themselves? The joint Soviet-American statement of October 1, 1977 was an unusually sensible document, reflecting a sober and tempered attitude to peace-making. But the Israelis did not want any Soviet involvement, and they put enough pressure on then President Carter to have the United States government more or less declare that the joint statement was a nice try, but not much more than that; it was quickly forgotten. Yet now, with Israel's American supplied F-16s blazing away in Lebanon, attacking Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese targets, it is to Moscow that the American leadership turns for some help. How confusing. How very unbelievable. We wonder: Did Israel give Washington the green light to approach Moscow?

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: By celebrating Labour Day today, Jordan demonstrates a true solidarity among the various groups of its society. It is indeed a feast for the whole country and not only for a particular group or class. Cohesion and solidarity here characterise the Jordanian society and manifest cooperation among its classes to help achieve justice and equal distribution of employment and wealth.

Jordanian labourers are, indeed, partners in the progress and prosperity of this country, and this fact serves as the best reply to the falsehoods of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who, in a speech a few days ago, tried to distort facts about the status of labourers in Jordan.

In fact, it is in Syria that the labour force is most oppressed. We all know the plight of Syrian workers and the crimes which the Damascus rulers commit in the labourers' name.

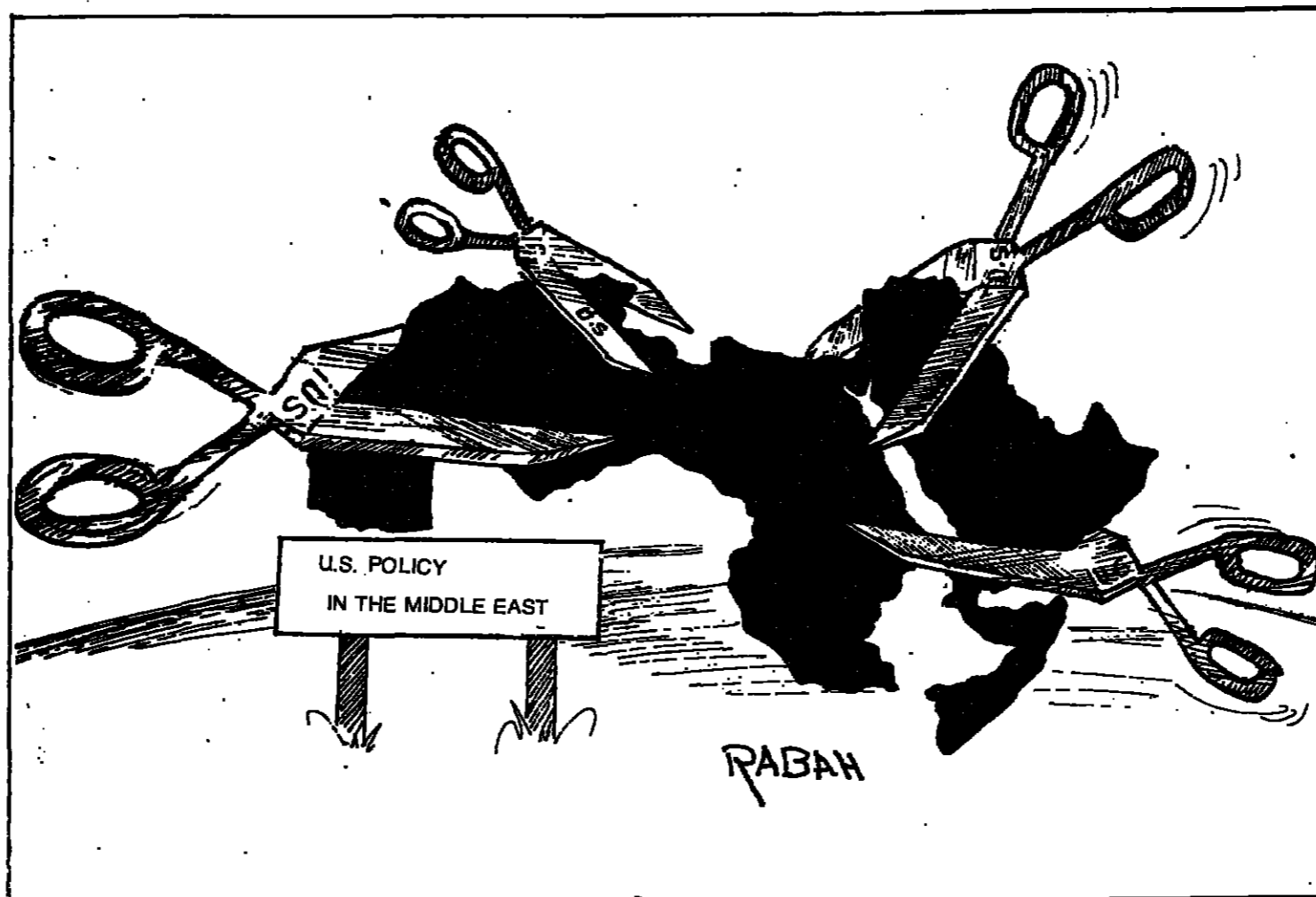
The labourers of Syria disavow themselves from these crimes committed by a regime of murderers who can not escape unpunished, no matter how treacherous their deeds are or how long their oppression and villainy may last.

AL DUSTOUR: The mask covering the face of the Damascus rulers and their actions in Lebanon has now dropped, and it is no longer secret that their role there is a conspiratorial one, indeed, part of an international plan for the partition of Lebanon. Being isolated from the rest of the Arab Nation, the Syrian rulers find themselves involved in implementing this plan and helping to subject our region to the vicious circle of international struggle.

Therefore, in order to carry out this role, the Damascus regime was forced to escalate its campaign against Jordan with the purpose of weakening the Arab stand, undermining Arab solidarity and rendering futile Arab efforts to foil enemy plans that are not only directed against Lebanon, but also aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause and forcing the Arab World to subordinate and spheres of big power influence.

For its part, Jordan released the Syrian conspiracy ever since Damascus tried to obstruct the convening of the 11th Arab summit in Amman last November. The Arab Nation as a whole realised the Syrian regime's plots and promptly acted to foil its malicious aims.

The Syrian campaign directed against Jordan is only a ploy to divert public attention from the regime's suspicious role in the region and the crimes which this regime commits against the people inside Syria. The Syrian president must realise that his threats to Jordan and the falsehoods of his regime can never deceive the Arab Nation, nor can they change this country's steadfastness, and its desire to achieve Arab solidarity.



BUSINESS HORIZON

Why the favours?

By Fahed Fan

The seventh annual report of the Housing Bank for 1980 indicates the continued growth of this successful banking institution. Although the bank was started only seven years ago, it has become the unchallenged No. 1 among specialised lending institutions, No. 1 among commercial banks in the number of branches, and second only to the Arab Bank in volume of deposits.

The report was rich in detailed information on the growing operations of the bank. The number of depositors reached a wide base of 140,000 accounts, and the financing facilities were extended to 17,000 beneficiaries, which shows that the Housing Bank's loans are spread over a big number of citizens — unlike our commercial banks, which concentrate 50 per cent of their financing facilities in favour of less than half of one per cent of their clientele.

The financial statement depicts fast growth in every respect: Cash on hand and at banks at the year end grew by 73%, loans by 27%, financial investments by 57%, real estate investments by 71%, customers' deposits by 42%, Equity reached JD 17.7 m., or JD 1.47 per share.

Gross revenues of the bank during 1980 were JD 10.7 m. and net profits amounted to JD 2.67 m.; the average return on assets was 6.22%, which is not lower than the rate attained by commercial banks.

The Housing Bank has thus achieved such a degree of success and financial muscle that exceptional concessions and exemptions are no longer warranted or justified. Following are some of the favours that the bank is still enjoying:

1. The government's ordinary shares of JD 1 million do not earn any profits or interest.
2. The bank's profits are absolutely tax exempt.
3. The bank is not yet required to maintain with the Central Bank a legal reserve, without interest equal in nature to that required of commercial banks.

4. The law of the bank's concessions, exemptions, and options. It is our opinion that the government as a shareholder should obtain its fair share of the profit like any other investor. The cost of money to the Ministry of Finance is over 8.5% per annum, especially when 50% of the capital is owned by non-Jordanian investors that do not deserve or expect subsidies at the expense of Jordanian public funds.

The exemption from income tax may have a negative impact on the bank's activities, as the investing its resources, and be unfair towards other commercial banks. The Housing Bank reserve kept in the Central Bank was introduced recently, par time deposits and government securities earning a higher rate than what is available to the commercial banks.

It is high time to revise the sent charter of the bank, or subject its activities more to the companies and banks, like any other bank in the country. This should not be construed as a punishment for success of the bank; to the contrary, it should be taken as an acknowledgement of that success of the fact that the bank has matured and become capable of vying itself in the market place without dependence on unneeded and discriminatory favours at the expense of the government.

We have to admit that the bank in its turn, is subsidizing housing sector borrowers, and especially the Housing Corporation, which could not have been possible if not for the direct and indirect subsidies the bank is deriving from the government. I believe the Housing Bank is a net beneficiary of these two-way subsidies. I am also of the opinion that subsidies of all kinds distort free market mechanism of pricing and distributing funds efficiently.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3
 5:30 Koran
 5:45 Children's Programme
 6:25 Battleship Galactica
 6:50 Programme Preview
 7:15 Local Programme
 7:30 News in Arabic
 8:45 Arabic series
 9:25 Local Programme
 10:25 Arabic Songs
 11:25 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6
 6:55 French Programme
 7:00 News in French
 7:20 French Varieties
 7:30 News in Hebrew
 7:50 Comedy
 8:15 "Play by Shakespeare"
 8:30 News in English
 8:45 Cont. of the Play

RADIO JORDAN

655 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
 7:00 Sign on
 7:05 Morning Show
 7:30 News Bulletin
 7:50 Morning Show
 8:00 News Summary
 8:30 Eternal Jerusalem
 9:00 Sign off
 12:00 News Headlines
 12:05 Pop Session
 13:00 News Summary
 13:05 Radiotheque
 14:00 News Bulletin
 14:20 Instrumentals
 15:00 Over a Cup of Tea
 15:05 Concert Hour
 15:05 News Summary
 16:30 Old Favourites
 17:00 Melody Time
 17:30 In Concert
 18:00 Play of the Week
 19:05 News Bulletin
 19:30 Top Twenty
 20:30 Men from the Ministry
 21:05 Classical Music
 22:00 Sign off

3BC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1143 KHz
 GMT
 04:00 Newscast 04:30 Keynotes
 04:45 Financial News 4:55 Reflections 05:00 World News: British Press Review 05:15 About Britain 05:30 New Ideas 05:40 Book Choice 05:45 The World Today 06:00 Newscast 06:30 Mendelssohn and the British Scene 07:00 World News: News about Britain 07:15 From the Weeklies 07:30 Theme and Variations 07:45 Network U.K. 08:00 World News; Ref-

lections 08:15 A Composer Speaks 08:30 Terry Wogan's Album Time 09:00 World News; British Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:40 Look Ahead 09:45 Science in Action 10:15 About Britain 10:30 The King's Collection 11:00 World News: News about Britain 11:15 New Ideas 11:25 The Week in Wales 11:30 Meridian 12:00 Radio Newsreel 12:15 Anything Goes 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 World News: Commentary 13:15 Net Work UK 13:30 Moment Musical 13:45 Saturday Special 14:00 Saturday Special 15:00 Radio Newsreel 15:15 Saturday Special 16:00 World News; Commentary 16:15 Saturday Special 17:00 World News; Play it my Way 17:40 Sporting Book Choice 17:45 Sports Round-up 18:00 World News: News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsreel 18:30 Play of the Week: Lawrence and Frieda 19:30 Terry Wogan's Album Time 20:00 World News; Commentary 20:15 Good Books 20:30 Mendelssohn and the British Scene 21:00 Short Story 21:15 The Book Programme 21:45 From Our Own Correspondent 22:00 World News; Theatre Call 22:30 New Ideas 22:40 Reflections 22:45 Sports Round-up 23:00 World News; Commentary 23:15 Letterbox 23:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA
 GMT
 03:30 The Breakfast Show: news on the hour and 28 min. after each hour 17:00 Weekend 18:00 Special English: news/words and their stories, feature, short stories 18:30 New York, New York 19:00 News and This Week 19:30 Press Conference USA 20:00 Special English: news/words and their stories 20:15 Music USA (Jazz) 21:00 Weekend

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS:
 7:55 Cairo (EA)
 8:55 Agaba
 9:40 Kuwait
 9:45 Karachi, Dubai
 9:50 Doha, Bahrain
 10:00 Dhahran
 10:05 Abu Dhabi
 11:05 Riyadh (SDI)
 11:40 Abu Dhabi (SK)
 14:35 Kuwait (KAC)
 16:30 Cairo
 17:25 Copenhagen, Athens, Beirut (SK)
 17:30 London (BA)
 17:45 Paris, Beirut (AF)
 17:55 Copenhagen, Athens, Cairo (IA)
 18:00 London (EA)
 18:25 Athens, Cairo (EA)
 18:35 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
 18:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

19:50 Frankfurt
 23:59 Baghdad
 01:00 London (BA)
 01:00 Cairo

DEPARTURES:
 5:45 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
 7:00 Agaba
 8:55 Cairo (EA)
 10:00 Frankfurt
 11:20 Tripoli, Tuels
 11:45 Geneva, Brussels
 12:00 London
 12:05 Riyadh (SDI)
 12:30 Paris
 12:30 Athens, Zurich (SR)
 13:00 Cairo
 16:20 Kuwait (KAC)
 19:40 Kuwait
 19:45 Cairo
 19:45 Baghdad
 20:00 Cairo
 20:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
 02:30 Rawalpindi (BA)

EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS:
 Amman:
 Hatim Mustafa 76878
 Jameel Maraqq 76149
 Zarqa:
 Tariq Hajjawi (-)
 Irbid:
 Anwar Al-Shoubool (-)

PHARMACIES:
 Amman:
 Nairookh 23672
 Sa'adan (-)
 Al-Hanan (-)
 Al-Hashimi 51699
 Zarqa:
 Al-Shifa (-)
 Irbid:
 Al-Omari (-)

TAXIS:
 Taxina 44650
 Al-Nel 44433
 Tariq 23024
 Shamsani 65294
 Asem 66583

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre 41520
 British Council 36147-8
 French Cultural Centre 37009
 Goethe Institute 41993
 Soviet Cultural Centre 44283
 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
 Haya Arts Centre 65195
 Hussein Youth City 67181
 Y.W.C.A. 41793
 Y.W.M.A. 64251
 Amman Municipal Library 36111
 University of Jordan Library 843555/843666

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
 Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
 Rotary Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
 Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 23316
 Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 3:12
 Sunrise 4:48
 Dhuhr 11:36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) 75111
 Civil Defence rescue 61111
 Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36381-2
 Municipal water service (emergency) 37111-3
 Police headquarters 39141
 Najdeh roving patrol rescue police. (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777
 Airport information (ALLA) 92205/92206
 Jordan Television 73111
 Radio Jordan 74111

Fire and ambulance 199
 Fire headquarters 22990
 Cablegram or teletype 18

Telephone:
 Information 12
 Jordan and Middle East trunk calls 10
 Overseas radio and satellite calls 17
 Telephone maintenance and repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Tomatoes	130	80	Carrots	100	80
Eggplants	200	140	Turnips	70	70
Potatoes (imported)	120	100	Bananas	270	200
Potatoes (local)	120	80	Bananas (from makhmar)	235	160
Marrow (small)	60	60	Dates	250	250
Marrow (large)	210	180	Apples (American, Japanese red, waxed)	450	450
Cucumber (small)	110	80	Apples (Double Red)	270	220
Cucumber (large)	140	100	Apples (Starken)	200	180
Peas	220	180	Apples (Golden)	280	200
String beans	140	100	Oranges (Shammout)	180	180
Potatoes (local)	40	40	Oranges (Valencia)	110	110
Lettuce (head)	180	100	Oranges (Waxed)	110	110
Cauliflower	300	220	Oranges	110	90
Bell pepper	60	40	Lemon	240	180
Cabbage	90	90	Coconut (apiece)	200	200
Spinach	100	70	Water Melons	230	230
Onions (dry)	140	100			
Onions (green)	140	100			
Garlic	140	140			

*Asr 3:16
 Maghreb 6:24
 'Isha 7:46

LOCAL EXCHANGE

RATES
 Saudi riyal 97.1/97.4
 Lebanese pound 80.4/81.2
 Syrian pound 50.4/51
 Iraqi dinar 744/750.5
 Kuwaiti dinar 1183.0/1185.6
 Egyptian pound 397/398
 Qatari riyal 89.3/89.6
 UAE dirham 88.6/89.1
 Omani riyal 941.6/944
 U.S. dollar 325.5/327.5
 U.K. sterling 699.5/703.7
 W. German mark 148.1/149.1
 Swiss franc 163/164
 Italian lire (for every 100) 29.8/30
 French franc 62.6/63
 Dutch guilder 134.1/133.3
 Swedish crown 68.7/69.1
 Belgian franc 91.5/92
 Japanese yen (for every 100) 153/153.9

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1981

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day to get organized and to schedule your activities for the future. You are more businesslike now and can handle difficult problems in a satisfactory manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study new philosophies of life that can be helpful in the future. Make sure your personal life is well organized.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take time to talk with influential persons who can help you in your career. Obtain new ideas of worth from friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you keep important promises made to others and gain their goodwill and respect. Express happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Contact new allies who can be helpful to you in new enterprises. Engage in favorite hobby.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Ideal day to get busy on important duties you've been putting off for a long time. Take needed health treatments.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Contact influential persons who can be helpful to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Ideal day to join congenial at recreations you enjoy. Take a look at a new interest that could prove profitable in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Go to the right sources to garner the data you need in order to make your life more successful in the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more concerned with money matters since rising prices require that you have more money. Think constructively.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have a good chance to get what you go after today. A fine talent you have can be expressed at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Show that you have good common sense and gain the respect of others. Discuss personal plans with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study positive ways to improve the quality of your life. Show more affection for family members. Show that you have wisdom.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can easily comprehend a difficult problem and solve it quickly. Give good religious and moral training early in life so that this becomes a well-balanced life. A good education is important here.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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هلذا من البصر

MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain, India: Foreign troops out of Afghanistan

DELHI, May 1 (R) — India has expressed grave concern over the militarisation of the Middle East and the situation in Afghanistan.

On the Indian Ocean, the two leaders expressed their grave concern over the increasing escalation of great power military presence in the area and called on these powers to progressively reduce and eventually eliminate their military presence.

withdrawal by Israel from all Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem.

The two sides said there was considerable scope for extending cooperation between India and Bahrain in diverse fields, and the amir said he felt Indian expertise, technology and experience could be used extensively in the development programme of Bahrain and the Arab World.

British perform autopsy on young Saudi prince

ABINGDON, England, May 1 (A.P.) — Despite initial objections from Saudi Arabia's government, an autopsy was performed yesterday on the body of Saudi Prince Abdul Aziz Faisal, who died mysteriously at his home near Oxford University.

Authorities tentatively ruled the prince's death was caused by a heart attack, but an inquest was being held by the deputy coroner.

Results of the autopsy were not disclosed, but a foreign office spokesman said "all procedures" were completed.

Diplomatic relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia have only recently begun to return to normal following the rift created by the showing of the television documentary, "Death of a Princess" last year.

The 26-year-old nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Khaled was found dead on Monday in his bed by a member of his staff at his house near Abingdon.

Deputy Coroner Nicholas Gardner, who was conducting the inquest, said he had received no request to release the body without an autopsy.

Afghan youth attacked by rebels

MOSCOW, May 1 (R) — Members of a Soviet-style youth organisation in Afghanistan have become targets for attack by guerrillas opposed to Marxist rule, a Soviet youth newspaper reported today.

The paper quoted an Afghan official as saying that the guerrillas left with the child's body a message saying: "This will happen to anyone who joins the Pioneers."

The Afghan official was quoted as saying that in spite of intimidation the Afghan Pioneer Organisation was continuing to grow and now had 14,200 members.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Iran celebrates May Day with fights, arrests

TEHRAN, May 1 (R) — Iranian revolutionary guards fired into the air today to dispense an unauthorised May Day March by a small group of leftist radicals.

Turkish military bans May Day celebrations, arrests 400

ISTANBUL, May 1 (A.P.) — Soldiers set up roadblocks and police rounded up about 400 suspected leftists to prevent illegal demonstrations today on the first May Day since the Turkish military toppled the civilian government last September.

A TOUCH OF LUXURY FURNISHED FLATS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT

A whole building consisting of eight flats, two and three bedrooms, all with Italian deluxe furniture and wall-to-wall carpeting.

Living room, dining room and sitting room sets, fully equipped modern kitchen.

Two large bathrooms, two balconies, independent central heating, colour TV, radio, telephone, baby cots, garden for outdoor living, playground for children, elevator, private parking, water reservoir, cleaning and valet services, with many additional facilities.

For more inquiries, call: 39188

Nationalist Chinese trade group visiting Jordan and holding a display show on May 2 at Sheraton Palace

The group arrives Amman for a four-day visit and will hold a display show of Taiwan-made products at the Sheraton Palace hotel on Saturday, May 2, between 3 and 8 p.m.

TEXTILES & GARMENTS; ELECTRICS & ELECTRONICS; JEWELLERY; TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTS; FOOTWEAR; BAGS; HARDWARE & HAND TOOLS; MEDICAL EQUIPMENT; CANNED FOOD; AND VARIOUS OTHER KINDS OF USEFUL GOODS.

The group represents the biggest and most important business concerns in Taiwan. There will be great opportunities for business dealings and commercial contracts.

A SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

is required for the site management of the heavy civil engineering work in a large turnkey industrial process works in Jordan. The man should be between 35 and 45 and be a chartered civil engineer with a predominance of site management experience with a large European firm; international contracts would be of advantage.

Pls. contact P.O. Box 61 Tia 'Al Ali, Amman, Jordan

New idea on Pyramids and Sphinx

Will it explain the mystery?

By Madeleine Jacobs

LONDON — Dr. Farouk El Baz, scientist at the Smithsonian Institution, may have found at least one of the mysteries of the Pyramids of Giza -- why unlike the other seven wonders of the ancient world, are still standing for all to admire.



PYRAMIDS: The Pyramids of Giza? Not quite. These monumental look-alikes in the Western Desert of Egypt were created not by man but rather by natural geological processes.

Instead, they chose the pyramid shape, which evades destruction by leading the wind up-slope and funneling its erosive power to the peak where its energy dissipates into the air.

The first and largest true pyramid, the so-called Great Pyramid, was built by the Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops) about 4,500 years ago.

The paper quoted an Afghan official as saying that the guerrillas left with the child's body a message saying: "This will happen to anyone who joins the Pioneers."

The first and largest true pyramid, the so-called Great Pyramid, was built by the Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops) about 4,500 years ago.

During these explorations, he believes, they must have seen many natural pyramidal and conical landforms, as Dr. El Baz himself did on several journeys in the late 1970s into the Egyptian deserts.

Of this desert exploration, Dr. El Baz also has uncovered natural, wind-sculpted forms resembling the Sphinx, which dates from 2500 B.C. The Sphinx, he believes, may have originated as one aerodynamically stable landform called a yardang.

In his desert explorations, Dr. El Baz also has uncovered natural, wind-sculpted forms resembling the Sphinx, which dates from 2500 B.C.

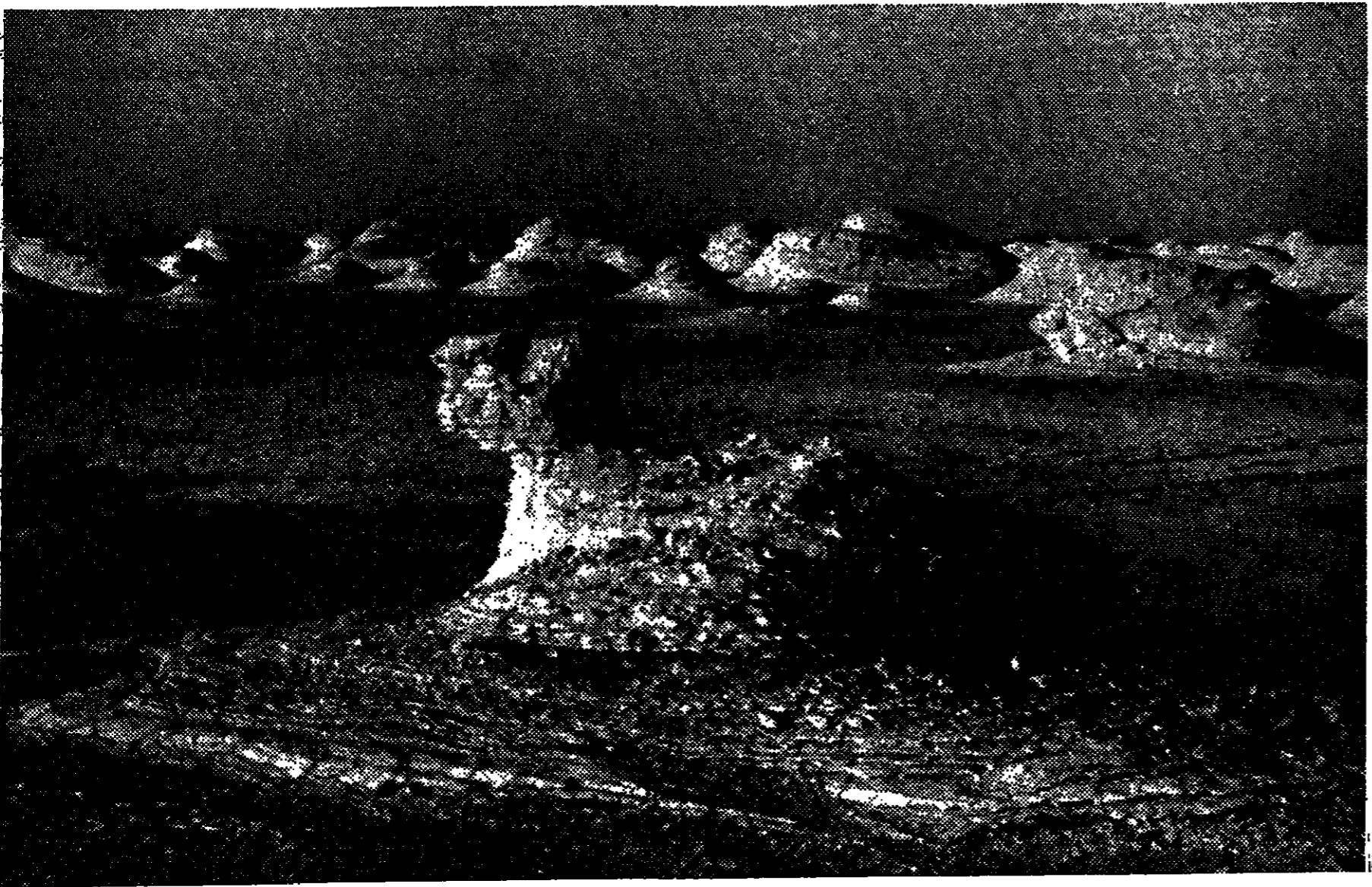
The ancient architects could have investigated such forms thousands of years ago and decided to dress up in (the Pharaoh's) image the yardang on the east side of the Great Pyramid.

Dr. El Baz has seen numerous landforms that are startling in their resemblance to the pyramids in the Nile Valley, starting particularly because these forms have been created not by man but rather by natural geological processes.

Dr. El Baz believes it is not surprising that apparently no one has made the connection between natural and man-made pyramids until now.

"This idea has certainly been cooking in my head for a long time. I looked at some of these structures over and over again before I made the connection. But, it now seems obvious to me that the ancient Egyptians must have studied such natural desert structures before deciding on the form of their towering monuments."

Of this desert exploration, Dr. El Baz also has uncovered natural, wind-sculpted forms resembling the Sphinx, which dates from 2500 B.C.



FORM: This 4-foot high, sphinx-like natural landform was discovered by the Smithsonian's Farouk El-Baz in the Western Desert of Egypt. The Sphinx of ancient Egypt, he believes, may have originated as wind-stable landform, "dressed up" by the Egyptian builders.

(Arab News)

ECONOMY

Charging of bank interest debated in the Gulf

By Fathleen Bishtawi

SHARJAH — The banking community in the United Arab Emirates has been sharply reminded recently that it does after all operate in an Islamic society, where in theory the charging of bank interest is strictly *haram* (forbidden).

To the Prophet Mohammad and all Muslims, interest and usury are the curse of human society — over the last 12 months a few Western businessmen might have agreed with him. "The curse of Allah be upon the person who takes interest," says the Prophet in the Hadith. Indeed, the Prophet was reported to have felt so strongly about the matter that he once threatened to go to war with a neighbouring tribe for their practice of making money out of money. For years, nevertheless, the merchant community in the Gulf has functioned on the assumption that without interest the wheels of commerce and banking would not function at all. They are adept at shopping around for the most favourable rate, frequently playing one bank off another, and are as knowledgeable about dollar and sterling rates as any international businessman. Yet in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) the subject is, officially, quietly brushed under the carpet, and apart from the emergence in the past five years of Islamic banking, which has been

given all official encouragement, little has been done to stop local and foreign banks from effectively charging interest, sometimes under another name. In Saudi Arabia, the banks have to charge "commission on profit."

In Qatar, where the government has attempted to keep domestic rates to less than 7 per cent, the result has been an outflow of money from the country, resulting in a severe tightening of liquidity. However, when international interest rates soared last year to 20 per cent and more, domestic lending rates in the Gulf also went up, and as rates went up, so the disputes began. Over the last year so, the UAE has witnessed a spate of legal cases between banks and their clients when borrowers have attempted to avoid paying interest on religious grounds. In the UAE there are two kinds of courts — the civil courts, which deal with all commercial disputes, and the Islamic Sharia courts, which deal largely with personal matters and criminal cases. The UAE Constitution, however, sta-

tes that the basis of all law in the country is Islam and the Koran. In the past this had rarely caused conflict in the civil courts, until the question of bank interest emerged. Claimants in such cases have argued that as the basis of all law is the Koran, any such contracts which include interest provisions are unenforceable in law and therefore null and void. Judges in previous cases have had little option but to agree, though some have called for contracts to be fulfilled. The discrepancies in verdicts caused increasing nervousness among bankers and judges, who hesitated to pronounce decisions contradicting the laws of Islam.

However, now the UAE is experiencing a test case involving a nephew of the Dubai ruler and six UAE and international banks. Some two years ago Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalifa Al Maktoum borrowed \$16 million to finance in part the construction of a shop and office complex. The spread at the time was a substantial 2.25 per cent above the London inter-bank offered rate, reflecting the bank's attitude to property investments. However, when rents took a tumble, the payments on principal and interest stopped coming, and the syndicate of banks met to consider the matter. Sheikh Mohammad pre-empted their decision by issuing a writ in Abu Dhabi, calling for a rescheduling of his

loan and exemption from the interest accrued, basing his case on religious grounds. In view of the patchy and confusing record on the matter of bank interest, a definitive ruling was sought by the local bankers' association from the UAE government. It came shortly before the Abu Dhabi case was due to begin, in the form of a declaration to the local press from the UAE central bank chairman, Sheikh

Surour bin Muhammad al Nahayan. He stated that in future all disputes between banks and their clients should be handled by the civil courts in the UAE, and that if a contract existed between the two parties it could be enforced. An almost audible sigh of relief was heard from the banking community which had become increasingly nervous about lending to the UAE at all. However, as legal experts here

point out, it is the right of any Muslim to have his case heard in an Islamic court — and no Muslim government could obstruct that eventually. Furthermore, the Justice authorities are now understood to have called a meeting of all judges in the UAE to discuss the tricky question, and to have told them to use their own discretion in any future interest cases. FROM THE FINANCIAL TIMES

China's national income up 6.9%

PEKING, May 1 (R) — China published its most detailed economic statistics to date, disclosing a 7.5 per cent rise in the urban cost of living index last year and an increase of nearly seven per cent in its nearest equivalent to a gross national product. An official communique on the 1980 national plan said the world's most populous nation now had 982.5 million mouths to feed, 11.6 million more than in 1979 — a rise exceeding the entire population of Portugal. The communique revealed a string of industrial problems, including urban unemployment, falling energy production, over-burdened transport and slow and inadequate returns on investment in capital construction. However, it revised grain output for last year slightly upwards to 318.2 million tonnes, and said harvests had been fairly good, despite serious drought and flooding in two provinces. Agricultural output value was up 2.7 per cent at 1970 prices and average annual income for each of the country's 800 million peasants, in addition to their basic food, was up three per cent to 85.0 yuan (\$53.60) last year.

Revised trade figures for last year indicated a deficit of 1.9 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion), more than double the figure announced in January but still much lower than the 3.1 billion yuan (\$1.9 billion) deficit for 1979. However, national income, the nearest equivalent to Gross National Product (GNP) in this communist country, rose 6.9 per cent to 363 billion yuan (\$227 billion) at 1970 prices. This was despite a fall in energy production of 1.3 per cent, including slightly lower coal and crude oil output. Foreign economists said that since this figure excludes the service sector and makes no provision for replacing worn-out assets a true GNP figure would be perhaps 15 per cent higher. The communique said the overall level of retail prices rose by six per cent over 1979 due to increases in prices of farm produce and some manufactured goods. However the urban increase was 8.8 per cent and the rise in rural areas only 4.4 per cent. Wages of urban workers rose 14.1 per cent but this represented a real increase of only 6.1 per cent after deducting a 7.5 per cent rise in the cost of living index.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, May 1 (R) — Following are the buying and selling for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the closing trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets:

One sterling	2.1420/40	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1975/78	Canadian dollar	
	2.2030/50	West German mark	
	2.4430/4500	Dutch guilders	
	2.0140/70	Swiss francs	
	5.2300/50	French francs	
	35.83/93	Belgian francs	
	1095.00/1099.00	Italian lire	
	215.50/80	Japanese yen	
	4.7400/7700	Swedish crowns	
	5.5300/5500	Norwegian crown	
	6.9475/9525	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	487.50/488.50	U.S. dollars	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, May 1 — The market was quietly mixed ahead of long UK holiday weekend, with most sectors showing an edge. At 1500 the FT index was down 3.6 at 593.7. Oils were higher, with the leaders as much as 10p up as in Sh but other leaders drifted after initial firmness. ICI was down and in a weak electrical sector, GEC dipped 15p and Plesey's down 12p at 310 ex dividend. Blue Circle, also trading ex dividend, continued firm, adding 2p to 496. U.S. and Canadian were narrowly mixed. Government bonds continued dull, losing 1/4 point in shorts around 2 3/4 point at the longer end, dealers said. Takeover situations dominated the day's trade, with Ra Bank of Scotland, marked down 20p immediately on news bids from Standard Chartered and Hongkong Shanghai had been referred to the monopolies commission, ending 12p down on day at 172. Oloids and Scottish fell 21p to 196 on small turnover after the non-referral of the bid from Lloyds. Northern Engineering ended 5p lower at 85 ex dividend at announcing a 28.8 million rights issue while John Laing added after figures. RTZ gave up 15p of recent gains.

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

RESTAURANTS & BARS

RESTAURANT CHINA
 "The First & Best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan"
 First Circle, Jabal Amman Near Ahliyah Girls School
 Open Daily
 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
 6:30 p.m. - Midnight
 Tel. 38968
 Take Home Service Available

Shepherd's Pub
 Enjoy a cold glass of draught beer and a game of darts in a truly English Pub atmosphere at the Shepherd Hotel Pub. Open 12 noon to 1 a.m. Snacks & steaks served.

"HAVE A BLAST!"
 AT
The Jockey Lounge
 OPEN 11 A.M. to 11 P.M.
 "WE ARE YOUR KIND OF PEOPLE"
 PHILADELPHIA HOTEL

AMMAN Holiday Drive
 We wish to apologize to our nonresident guests for the closure of hotel outlets during the 4th Arab Conference for Mineral Resources from April 24th through May 2nd. Watch for a stunning line-up of entertainment after our reopening on May 3rd.

RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO
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 Try our special "Flaming Pot" fondue during your next visit. Take-away orders welcome. Welcome and thank you.

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Handwritten note: هذا ليس جوا

Golden key handed over

New crew for 'Columbia'

By Howard Benedict
Astronauts John Young and Bob
are passing their "used"
ship Columbia to a new
unofficially ending a three-
association with the craft that
tried their patience before
ing their glowing respect.

ught it back to a picture-perfect
landing on an arid runway in Cal-
ifornia's Mojave desert.
The world's first reusable space-
ship was back on Earth, to be
refurbished and taken up again.

presented them with a large
gold-painted key with "Col-
umbia" stamped on it.
The second flight is scheduled in
September. "We have only one
spacecraft right now and we have
to take turns flying it," Young told
them. "I hope you take care of it."

were'n concerned when they saw
that a handful of the 30,922 thermal
tiles had been damaged on
the top of the tail section.
Crippen said one problem they
had -- the loss of their toilet four
hours before the flight's end --
would definitely have to be cor-
rected.

Calling for reforms might
rock the boat in Czechoslovakia

By Colin McIntyre

PRAGUE — A debate is raging
within Czechoslovakia's "Charter
77" human rights movement,
which appears to be in something
of a rut, over its future direction.
Put at their simplest the two
main arguments are: should the
movement continue a policy of
direct confrontation with the au-
thorities by a few activists, or should
it try to broaden its base by
adopting a lower profile?
The debate is dominated by
recent events in Poland, where the
dissident movement has forged
close links with the independent
Solidarity trade union and has
been a major force in the current
reform process.

Another dissident agreed, adding
that Czechoslovaks were
aware they were materially better
off than most, if not all of their east
bloc neighbours.
"The division in Cze-
choslovakia exists within indi-
viduals, not within society as a
whole," he said. "The majority do
not support the government, but
they have their weekend cottages
and meat every day."
"Corruption leads to general
demoralisation", another charter
member said. "The authorities
turn a blind eye to the corruption,
because they have an interest in
keeping the public conscience at a
low level."

sacrifices and a policy of active
confrontation as necessary "to
shake people out of their leth-
argy."
"Confrontation keeps the char-
ter in the public eye," he said.
Police actions against dissidents,
and the jailing of some, get re-
ported back through Western radio
stations.
But another charter member
disagreed, arguing there was a
large grey area of people in Cze-
choslovakia who were willing to
cooperate with the movement as
long as they could remain ano-
nymous, and thus remain in the
established system.

He also felt the idea of a handful
of people setting an example by
their sacrifice tended to lend
ammunition to critics who have
accused the charter of being elitist.
"I have found it sometimes
more difficult to express an op-
inion within the charter than in so-
ciety," he said, adding: "only when
people in the charter can be cri-
tical towards themselves will it be
a real model for others."
He said the first critical voices
within the movement caused great
animosity, but this had been lar-
gely smoothed over and the char-
ter had been strengthened.
That the movement is still func-
tioning despite a fierce campaign
by the authorities over the past
two years to break it was dem-
onstrated when it sent a letter to
the ruling Communist Party's
Congress here earlier this month
protesting against the detention of
some 30 dissidents just before the
meeting opened.



Commander John Young (right) and pilot Robert Crippen holding a model of the spacecraft 'Columbia'

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
©1981 by Chicago Tribune
Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♦ 963
♦ 1084
♦ 7652
♦ J54
WEST EAST
♦ Q872 ♦ 1054
♦ 5 ♦ 972
♦ J43 ♦ KQ9
♦ AK763 ♦ Q1082
SOUTH
♦ AKJ
♦ AKQJ63
♦ A108
♦ 9
The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

not prepared to risk his part-
ner passing three hearts.
West attacked with the
king and ace of clubs.
Declarer ruffed the second
round, and a cursory analysis
of his prospects suggested
that the fate of the contract
hinged on the spade finesse.
Dummy's ten of hearts would
provide the entry for the
finesse. As you can see, that
line was doomed to failure.
A deeper study revealed
that there was a hidden asset
on the table that would give
declarer an extra chance --
dummy's fourth diamond. If
the suit broke evenly, the
long diamond could be
established for a spade
discard. To take advantage of
that, the ten of hearts would
have to be retained in dummy.
After ruffing the club,
declarer drew only one round
of trumps before leading the
ace of diamonds and another.
East won and returned a
trump in an effort to cut
declarer off from the table.
Declarer won in hand and led
his last diamond. When the
suit split evenly, dummy's
long diamond was establish-
ed and the ten of hearts was
still there as a means of
reaching it for a discard.
An even split in diamonds
is considerably against the
odds but declarer gave up
nothing by trying for it. Had
the suit not behaved in a
friendly fashion, declarer
always could have fallen back
on the spade finesse.

There is a similarity be-
tween bridge and prospect-
ing. You never know what
wealth can be concealed
beneath the bleakest exter-
iors.
South's jump to four
hearts at his second turn is
fully in keeping with modern
theory. Though opening two-
bids in a suit are forcing, the
bidding can stop short of
game if, after a negative
response of two no trump,
opener does no more than
simply rebid his suit at the
three-level. Responder then
has the right to pass if his
hand is completely trickless.
Here, South needed so little
to make game that he was

THE BETTER HALF. By Vinson
A cartoon showing a man and a woman in a grocery store. The man is looking at a woman who is looking at a man. The caption says: "It's easy to find Harriet in a grocery store. She always leaves a trail."

THE Daily Crossword By C.F. Murray
ACROSS
1 Flaccid
5 Babywear
9 Second-rate
13 Teutonic family estate
14 Gem weight
15 Medicinal plant
16 Spanish painter
17 Harangue
18 Appellation
19 Find
22 Outline
23 Svelte
24 - Vineyard
27 Red leader
31 Label
32 Opposed one
34 Draw out
35 -- of robins in her...
38 Period
39 Fasten again
40 Calico horse
41 Carolee
43 Adjective ending
44 Evil ones
46 Clearing the tape
49 Turner and Cole
51 Sacred bull
52 Crate words
58 Vicinity
59 Varnish ingredient
60 Bad humor
62 Cicatrix
63 Unsophisticated
64 Lancheater
65 Keep
66 Commedia dell'
67 Sinister look
DOWN
1 Record
2 Man on a pedestal
3 Yucatan native
4 Golfer
5 Gary
6 With- (weapon-less)
7 Gershwin and Levin
8 Swipes
9 Not mass-produced
10 Woe is me!
11 Italian lake
12 Sharp
14 Semidome of an apse
20 Hall of Farmer Mel
21 Saltpetre
24 Craze
25 Go-between
26 Boa
28 Shade of blue
29 Cake decor
30 Hawaiian goose
31 Bugle call
33 Marked by repetition
36 Banner
37 Musical
42 Author
43 Du Maurier
45 Breast-bones
47 Thus
48 Girl's name
50 Vow
52 Leftover dish
53 With the bow
54 Patricia
55 -- true what they say...
56 Vex
57 If not
61 Mug lug

Dear Ex-Sweetheart, I still think of you often.
I loved you more than life itself, but you turned me down.
So why am I writing to you?
I'M NOT!

NO! IT WOULDN'T!!
FAIR ENOUGH
NOTHIN' REALLY SURPRISES ME THESE DAYS - EXCEPT I'M TAKIN' NO FOR AN ANSWER

I'M GOING ON A FIVE MILE JOG. MUTT
WHOA, BOY. FIRST YOU HAVE TO WARMUP!
YOU HAVE TO GET THOSE MUSCLES ALL LIMBERED UP....
AND THOSE JOINTS LOOSENED!
THERE! NOW YOU CAN JOG!
JOG? I'M LUCKY IF I CAN WALK!

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henn Arnold and Bob Lee
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.
INVEA
ENTAK
YEMDOC
TANTIA
Wall Street?
WHAT HER ESCORT WAS IN.
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Answer here:
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: FABLE NOISE MARTYR AFFRAID
Answer: "Don't join in the chorus!" - "REFRAIN!"

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 67 indicating starting points for words.

WORLD

N. Ireland on deathwatch as Mrs. Thatcher repeats 'No' to Sands' demands

BELFAST, May 1 (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has refused to grant political status to jailed Irish guerrillas as hunger-striker Bobby Sands neared death in a Belfast prison and another hunger-striker was reported in a weakening condition.

Mrs. Thatcher, in a statement to the British parliament, said: "There can be no question of granting political status to convicted criminals now or at all."

She spoke as Pope John Paul's personal emissary, Father John Magee, was leaving Belfast on his way back to Rome after three fruitless attempts to persuade Mr. Sands to give up his hunger strike.

Father Magee made similar attempts inside Belfast's Maze prison to persuade three other jailed guerrillas of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) to call off hunger strikes which they began after Mr. Sands.

In a statement before his departure, Father Magee refused to

give up hope that the hunger-strikers would accept the Pope's plea for them to stop the fast.

The papal intervention was the latest twist in what has become a grim death watch for Northern Ireland. An upsurge of violence in the province is widely expected to follow Mr. Sands' death.

For the past two weeks there have been outbreaks of shooting and rioting and police said about 12 shots were fired at a police patrol in Belfast. No one was hurt.

Before leaving Belfast, Father Magee visited the bereaved families of two men murdered in IRA attacks.

Accompanied by Cardinal

Tomas O'Faich, Roman Catholic primate of all Ireland, he made a private visit to the family of a Protestant part-time soldier killed in an IRA ambush on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Britain's opposition Labour Party spokesman on Northern Ireland visited Mr. Sands this morning in a lastditch attempt to persuade him to give up his fast.

In London, 10 supporters of Mr. Sands and three other Irish nationalist guerrillas on hunger-strike barricaded themselves into an office at Labour's headquarters, protesting the party's support for the Conservative government's refusal to yield to the hunger strikers' demands to be treated as political prisoners.

Police were summoned to the party headquarters, in London's Kensington district, to try to remove the protesters from a third-story office.

Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman Don Concannon met briefly with Mr. Sands, now close to death, prison officials said.

Labour's intervention was seen as hopeless. It followed the hunger strikers' rejection of a personal plea from Pope John Paul II to the strikers to end the fast for their own lives and all those threatened by potential violence.

A spokesman for Sinn Fein, political front of the outlawed Irish Republican Army dismissed Mr. Concannon as "small beer" insignificant.

"I doubt very much whether they would have a lot to talk about," the Sinn Fein spokesman said of the visit.

Mr. Sands, in the 62nd day of his hunger strike, and Mr. Francis Hughes, 25, without food for 48 days, were both near death, relatives reported.

Of Labour's 255 members in Britain's 635-seat House of Commons, only arch-left-winger Tony Benn has urged that Mr. Sands, elected April 9 to the commons, be allowed to take up his seat, fellow left-winger Labourite Jo Richardson said today.

Miss Richardson said Mr. Benn's suggestion, made during a closed meeting of senior Labourites last week, as "not taken particularly seriously."

Mr. Benn made no immediate comment.

Mr. John Mellor, leader of the group hauled up at Labour's headquarters, declared: "We expect the police to evict us forcibly. Labour's bipartisan policy with the Tories is shameful."

A bad sign for Giscard

PARIS, May 1 (R) — An opinion poll due to be published tomorrow shows Socialist Francois Mitterrand defeating incumbent Valery Giscard d'Estaing in the French presidential election runoff on May 10.

The poll, commissioned by the weekly magazine *Le Point*, gives Mr. Mitterrand 51.5 per cent of voting intentions compared with 48.5 per cent for Mr. Giscard d'Estaing.

It is likely to be the last guide to the decisive vote before the legal deadline for publishing polls at midnight tomorrow.

Le Point said the poll organisation had questioned 1,892 people on Monday and Tuesday this week, just after the first-round vote in which Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Mitterrand distanced their eight rivals to qualify for the run-off.

Of the sample, 16 per cent of those questioned did not express a preference.

Militants call for another Spanish coup

MADRID, May 1 (A.P.) — Right-wing militants in Madrid shouted encouragements today for another coup in Spain, turning May Day celebrations into their biggest show of strength since an abortive military attempt to overthrow the government two months ago.

Demanding freedom for Civil Guard Lt. Col. Antonio Tejero, indicted for military rebellion in leading 289 of his men to seize the lower house of parliament at gunpoint during the coup attempt, an estimated 20,000 demonstrators raised their arms in the fascist salute amid a field of Spanish flags and chanted repeatedly: "Tejero, Spain is with you." "Long Live Franco."

The right-wing Madrid demonstration overshadowed smaller traditional demonstrations by the unions of the Socialist and Communist parties, noticeably subdued since the Feb. 23 coup attempt.

The right-wing marchers included a German shepherd dog wrapped in the Spanish flag by a group of neo-Nazi youths wearing fake falange shirts and black gloves. It was led by ultra-right leader Blas Pinar.

In northern Spain, Basque separatists and police clashed in four major provincial capitals after demonstrators shouted for the coup-makers to be punished, demanded the armed forces withdraw from the area and called national police assassins.

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Air traffic controllers' strike cripples Heathrow

LONDON, May 1 (A.P.) — London's Heathrow airport, the busiest in Europe, shut down completely this morning as air traffic controllers staged their second mass walkout in a week.

Some 400 international and domestic flights were delayed or diverted because of the seven-hour strike which started at 7.30 a.m. (0830 GMT).

Thousands of passengers were stranded or delayed.

Once the Heathrow controllers returned to work this afternoon, 25 controllers at Scotland's Prestwick control centre were due to start a half-day strike.

Only one of the 35 controllers and assistants due on the morning shift at Heathrow turned up — a non-union member who crossed picket lines to sit at his tower reading a book.

"He can do nothing by himself," said John Macreadie, spokesman for the England Public Servants Association, the air traffic controllers' union. "There will be no flying here during the strike period."

The air traffic controllers' strikes are part of a series of rolling strikes, in their eighth week by Britain's 530,000 civil servants demanding 15 per cent hike and that future raises be geared to salaries of the private sector.

Man sentenced 5 years for threatening Reagan

ORLANDO, Florida, May 1 (A.P.) — A man convicted of writing a blood-stained letter to President Ronald Reagan has been ordered to serve five years in federal prison for threatening the president's life.

U.S. District Judge George C. Young has imposed the maximum sentence for Bobby Deen Wilson, 26, who was in the Seminole County jail awaiting trial in a long case at the time he was charged with making the threat, which is a federal violation. Wilson was found guilty of writing a threatening letter to President Reagan on Jan. 6, before Mr. Reagan was sworn into office.

Prosecutors said the blood-stained three-page letter said, in part, that Wilson would "put a third eye" in Mr. Reagan's head, even if it "takes 15 years to do it."

Wilson's attorney immediately appealed the sentence.

But it ain't all flowers for Botha

National Party stays in saddle in Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG, May 1 (R) — South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha faces a dilemma as he plans policy for the next five years after losing votes to both left and right in Wednesday's general election.

The gains made by the liberal, anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP), which raised the number of its seats from 18 to 26, will increase pressure on Mr. Botha to begin to move to the left with some measure of racial reform, political analysts said.

But, more significantly, the large increase in votes for the white supremacist Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) will make it more difficult for him to do so without further splitting his already badly-divided party, they said.

Although the HNP did not win a seat, its share of the poll increased fourfold over the last election in 1977 to 190,000.

How close it came to winning a seat is shown by the fact that its 1.4 per cent share of the 1.35 million votes was only five per cent below what the PFP polled in winning its 26 seats.

Some analysts believe this will shake Mr. Botha even more than in the last parliament when he significantly muted his suggestions of race reforms in the face of hostility from his own right wing.

Ruling National Party (NP) hardliners could now be expected to point to the HNP tally as voter backlash against any lowering of the country's apartheid (racial segregation) barriers.

Prof. Willem Kleynhans, head of the political science department at the University of South Africa, commented: "If he (Mr. Botha) opts for real change, which is the expectation of thousands who supported him, he will have to deal now with a far more hostile caucus."

"The paralysis that afflicted him after his 'adapt or die' speeches in 1979, because of his fear of offending the party's right wing, will not go away."

But the jubilant PFP, still a tiny band compared to the NP, which won a mammoth 131 of the 165 seats, sees their gains as pointing the direction for the government to follow.

educated men like Mr. Joshi, who can be described almost as "capitalist farmers." It centres on questions of income, prices and inputs. At least in Western India, the agitation is beginning to loosen agriculture from its feudal moorings and to break the traditional tranquillity of the countryside.

The tobacco growers, from

two aides hovered near the Soviet leader as he walked steadily up to the reviewing stand at the start of the parade to the accompaniment of music.

PFP leader Frederik van Zyl Slabbert said: "I hope he gets the message: go for clear-cut, unambiguous reform."

Dr. Slabbert's Cape Town home was badly damaged by fire last night, and a senior fireman said arson was suspected. The 41-year-old opposition leader and his family were not harmed.

Commenting on the election, noted Afrikaans historian and political analyst Hermann Gilloomee said that by already allowing some reforms to creep in, such as the unionisation of black labour, Mr. Botha had committed himself too far to go back now.

"He cannot reject all alternatives while keeping all options open."

"One thing is clear: the cracks in the National Party cannot be mended. I cannot see the party putting itself together again. It has lost too much support to the right, and the prime minister does not have the option of reversing the direction he has chosen."

Mr. Botha himself made light of the nine per cent drop in the NP's share of the poll to 57 per cent and

the embarrassing defeat of Industries and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers, the first cabinet minister to lose an election since the NP came to power in 1948.

"I am convinced that we have received enough votes from the country to be able to continue with what we are doing. We will continue with the direction we have taken and we will not be pushed from our course," he said.

"We have been in power 33 years and are still maintaining a two-thirds majority. That is quite an achievement."

Indeed, the NP tally was only three seats short of the record 134 it captured in the 1977 election under Prime Minister John Vorster.

But what Mr. Botha has never made clear is precisely why he called an election now, 18 months early, and what he hoped to get out of it.

Officially, he has said one reason was that a large number of vacancies and the creation of new constituencies through delimitation would have necessitated a costly series of more than 30 by-elections anyway.

Rock-throwing mars May Day in Zurich

ZURICH, May 1 (A.P.) — A mob of rock-throwing youths shot shop windows in the heart of Switzerland's largest city today later sought to disrupt official May Day ceremonies by shouting speakers, police said.

Authorities twice fired four rubber bullets to disperse knots of suspected troublemakers roaming downtown streets. Persons were detained for identification checks, police said.

No estimate about the extent of damage was immediately available from the disturbances, the last of an intermittent series of some violent youth protests that began 11 months ago. Zurich had calmed since the opening early month of a self-administered counter-culture centre for youth which had been the principal and of the amorphous and ill-defined movement.

Speakers during the May ceremonies were interrupted by youths shouting demands for affordable housing in Zurich for amnesty for persons in prosecution on charges stem from previous demonstrations, police said.

May Day in Red Square

MOSCOW, May 1 (A.P.) — Under a forest of red flags, hundreds of thousands of chanting Soviet youths and workers poured through Red Square today in the annual May Day parade. Banners proclaimed Soviet economic achievements and condemned U.S. military policies.

Several senior Western diplomats boycotted the parade for a second year to protest Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The United States sent only two lower-ranking members of its embassy delegation.

President Leonid Brezhnev, 74, Premier Nikolai Tikhonov, 75, and other members of the Soviet leadership watched the 90-minute parade from a reviewing stand atop Lenin's Mausoleum in chilly 5°C weather, and waved to the marchers as they passed.

Some observers said there seemed to be more posters of Mr. Brezhnev this year than in previous parades.

Two aides hovered near the Soviet leader as he walked steadily up to the reviewing stand at the start of the parade to the accompaniment of music.

Mr. Brezhnev, who has looked unwell in recent months, appeared largely expressionless and aged only small waves as the marchers passed.

The young uniformed marchers who led off the parade were followed by hundreds of thousands of Moscow workers, bearing pictures of Soviet leaders, balloons, huge paper flowers and signs claiming industrial and foreign policy achievements.

One sign declared: "No to U.S. nuclear strategy."

Since early 1980, some Western embassies, particularly those of NATO member countries, refused to send their top diplomats to Soviet parades to protest the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The top officials of at least 11 Western embassies — those of the United States, Britain, West Germany, Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, Ireland and Japan — were believed absent from the parade today. Not these embassies confirmed they were acting on political motives, however.

Ferment among Indian farmer

Western India's angry farmers are in bitter confrontation with Mrs. Gandhi's government. Just recently ten of them died in clashes with the police, and the farmer's movement is becoming highly organised.

By V. F. Sharma

NEW DELHI: The small Indian town of Nipani, in Karnataka State, won notoriety recently as police fought protesting tobacco farmers. Ten farmers were killed, and Mr. Sharad Joshi, charismatic leader of the six-month-old farmers' agitation, was taken to jail — a sudden and alarming shift in what had been until now a non-violent movement.

The events clearly showed the depth of farmers' grievances, and the seriousness with which Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government views them.

Farmers comprise more than 80 per cent of India's 684 million population, and contribute more than 40 per cent to the gross national product.

Western India's angry farmers, like their counterparts in other states, have puzzled the government and local politicians alike by their grim determination to press demands for better prices.

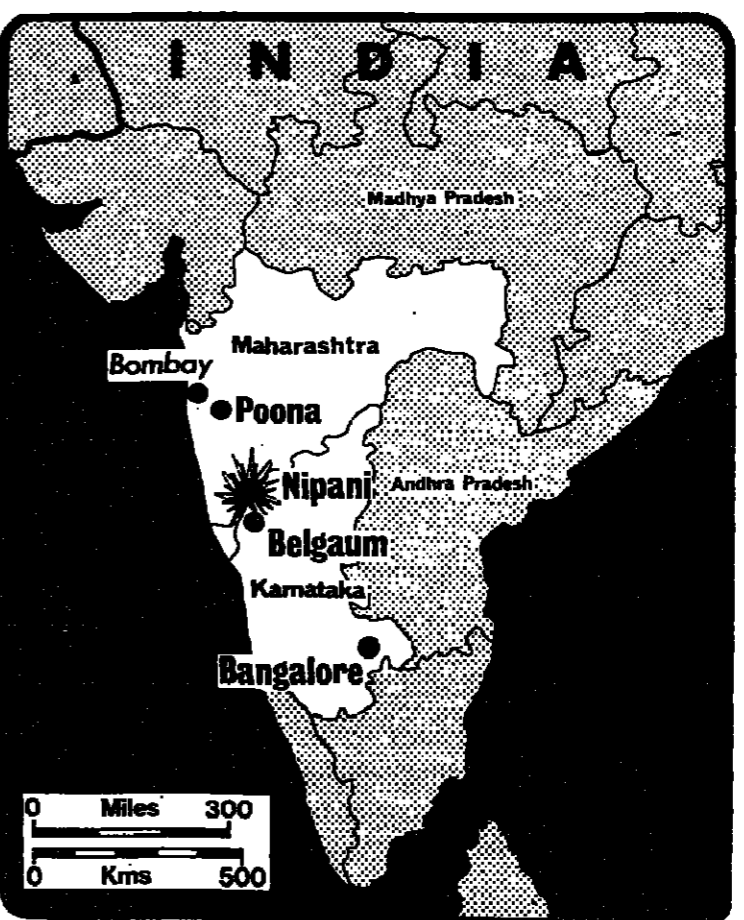
For the past 30 years, politicians have vied to gain the farmers' support, only to find that when the relatively well-to-do and increasingly better-educated farmers organise themselves they can be as effective as any union.

Mr. Joshi's protest movement has caused deep concern both in Delhi and in the five states where protests have so far been mounted.

Nipani has been the centre of agitation since March 14. The farmers have been taking steadily tougher action in demanding higher prices for their products.

It is an agitation with a difference. It is not like the often-publicised protests of the landless labourers — the *Harajans* (untouchables). Nor is it an ideological battle. It has nothing to do with the caste system which traditionally divides the country.

The revolt is led by modern,



(a small leaf-wrapped cigarette smoked widely in India).

In that time, several thousand farmers had been squatting on the highway with their cattle and implements, carrying small flags and waving red banners proclaiming their demands for higher prices.

All vehicles between the key towns of Bangalore, capital of Karnataka, and Poona, a main industrial centre of Maharashtra, have had to make a 200-kilometre detour.

For more than three weeks, the Karnataka government had stood by, ordering its police not to use force. Mr. Joshi was aware that the authorities wanted to wear the agitation down.

Mr. Joshi started with growers in the middle of last year when there was an union glut. Strategy is an adaptation of Mahatma Gandhi's civil disobedience and defiance of the authorities, organising his followers to block roads, besiege legislators and ebbily occupy government offices.

He spurs politicians: "No political party can seriously be trusted in farmers getting their own prices. All these political leaders and all these parties are part of the system which has been deliberately exploiting farmers since independence in a form of colonial exploitation."

The difference is that Mr. Joshi does not want to be elected. All wants is to organise the farmers like unions so that they get a deal. In doing so, his movement threatens to throw India's rural areas into ferment.

(Financial Times news feature)

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Top Spanish army general to be relieved

MADRID, May 1 (A.P.) — The commander of the Spanish army's crack armoured division, Maj. Gen. Jose Juste Fernandez, will be relieved of his command, reportedly for links with the right-wing military attempt to overthrow the government two months ago, defence ministry sources said yesterday. The sources said the 63-year-old general would be relieved of command by Premier Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo at the next cabinet meeting May 8. There was no official comment from the government or the army. But defence ministry sources said the change of command was connected with the abortive Feb. 23 attempt to overthrow the government when paramilitary Civil Guards seized the lower house of the Spanish parliament and held the representatives hostage at gunpoint for 18 hours. During the assault on parliament, units of the Fero Brunete Armoured Division commanded by Gen. Juste briefly seized control of the state television.

China to limit population to 1.2 billion

JAKARTA, May 1 (A.P.) — China hopes to limit its population to 1.2 billion by the end of the century in order to become a moderately well-off state, an international conference of family planners has been told. The world's most populous nation described its fertility control measures to the conference which was in its last day yesterday. A statement by Ms. Li Niuzhen, vice-president of the Chinese Family Planning Association, said a "one-couple-one-child" plan would have to be adopted to meet the goal. "It is imperative to limit the total population of China within 1.2 billion in order to achieve modernisation in agriculture, industry, national development and science and technology by the end of this century to develop national economy and improve the people's livelihood to the level of a moderately well-off state," her statement said. The state statistical bureau in Peking has reported that China had a population of 982.5 million at the end of 1980.

World's longest narrow-gauge tunnel

OVERWALD, Switzerland, May 1 (A.P.) — Eight years of drilling deep below Alpine peaks were ceremoniously completed yesterday on the world's longest narrow-gauge tunnel, a 15.4 kilometre railroad stretch beneath the Furka Pass. The tunnel is part of the scenic Furka Oberwald line of Switzerland's dense railroad network. Thus far, this stretch has been fully operational only during four and a half months every year because of deep snow and the danger of avalanches. The new all-weather link will be open next year to passenger trains and piggy-back trains that can carry up to 100,000 cars annually. Total construction costs are expected to be 300 million Swiss francs (\$155 million) — four times the original estimate.

Dalai Lama plans 3-week tour of U.S.

NEW DELHI, May 1 (A.P.) — The Dalai Lama, the exiled god-king of Tibet, will undertake a three-week tour of the United States in July, his spokesman said yesterday. The 45-year-old Dalai Lama will lecture on "Kalachakra" — a Buddhist philosophical system taught only by the Tibetan high priest — at the University of Wisconsin in Madison during the visit, his second to the United States, spokesman Tashi Wangdi reported. The Tibetan leader may also lecture at Harvard University, Mr. Wangdi said, adding that the tour has been sponsored by a Madison-based Buddhist organisation, the "Deer Park." During the first visit to the United States by a Dalai Lama in September-October 1979, the spiritual leader addressed campus and religious groups and visited Tibetan communities across the country.

Sacked Air India officials to go to court

NEW DELHI, May 1 (R) — One of five Air India officials, sacked after the attempted sabotage of a plane due to carry Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, said they would challenge the decision in court. Sacked Deputy Engineering Director A.S. Karnik told the Indian Express newspaper in Bombay there was no reason for the dismissals. Air India sacked Mr. Karnik and three senior security officers earlier this week. The airline gave no reason. But the decision came two days after the government announced that four cable systems had been intentionally cut in a Boeing 707 aircraft due to take Mrs. Gandhi to Geneva and the Gulf next week. Police said last night that four people, including three other Air India employees and one former official, had been arrested in connection with the attempted sabotage. The government said the plane could have crashed during Mrs. Gandhi's tour had the faults not been detected. The prime minister leaves for Geneva on Tuesday.